



RHIC & AGS USERS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friday Jan 10, 2003

Physics 3-192 11:45 to 1:30

Dial in connection: 631-344-6363

Next Meeting: Friday, Feb 14 11:45-1:30

Agenda Items

- Opening Remarks: Richard Seto
- Update of Foreign Visits & Assignments
- ITD Update
- Budget/Congressional Update (RKS stand-in for John)
- Next Meeting: Friday, Feb 14 11:45-1:30
 - Appropriate time for tour of BAF? ATF?

STATUS OF LEGISLATION: DOE Office of Science (SC)

- H.R. 34 :Energy and Science Research Investment Act of 2003
 - Recently (2 days ago) introduced Congresswoman Biggert(R) in 108th Congress.
 - formerly H.R. 5270
 - H.R. 5270:96 cosponsors/ H.R. 34 now has 44 cosponsors.
 - Hope that some of its provisions will be included in the research and development portion of the comprehensive energy legislation that will likely be considered during the 108th Congress.

However: FY2003 budget year (NOW)

- allocation for the House Energy and Water subcommittee has already been set.
- probably too late to influence in a meaningful way how this money will be divided and how much the DOE Office of Science will get.
- not clear yet who will be the major players on the Senate (Frist?)

ACTION Items for UEC

- I (Hill) will get list of H.R. 34 cosponsors.
- I will create two sample letters to
 - thank present cosponsors
 - encourage other members of Congress to become cosponsors.
- Match users with the representatives of their districts to write letters!
- Keep a tally
 - letters sent
 - progress in recruiting additional cosponsors.
- need letters to representatives who are NOT in Lab districts
- Work with other User Groups
- (addendum - RKS - NIH? NASA?)

Notes from APS PR person

- Steve Pierson
 - Senior Science Policy Fellow (on leave from WPI)
- meeting with some Budget committee people
 - will take a number of years to build enough support for the Office of Science to get real increases
 - overwhelming amount of its money goes to a relatively small number of districts, those districts being of course where the labs are.
 - imperative for the users who aren't in these districts to let their Congressman know about the importance of the facilities to them
 - work with other user groups to have the users help build the awareness for the National Lab facilities and support for the Office of Science.

Comments - from APS

- Frist (R-TN) - new Majority Leader
 - Should be friend of science
 - Grad Princeton/ Harvar Med
 - Worked at Vanderbilt Med center - vicki!
 - Friend of the Administration
- His work
 - one of 38 senators to sign a letter to the Senate's leadership advocating a five year doubling of the NSF budget
 - that fall there was a somewhat unusual publicized exchange of rather sharp letters between Frist and House Science Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) regarding Sensenbrenner's refusal to move the doubling bill through the House.
 - one of 36 senators who sent a letter to the Senate leadership in support of a substantial increase in funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Frist - cont

- In 2001 one of seven cosponsors of an amendment, during the Senate's consideration of the budget resolution, that would increase the overall amount of money available for science funding.
- Last year, one of five original cosponsors of legislation to award competitive grants to academic institutions with programs to increase the number of students in S&T fields.

Frist is very likely to find that his strategies and objectives will necessarily align closely with those of the Bush Administration. The outlook for funding for the current fiscal year, which still remains unsettled, and for the year beginning next October 1 is - not surprisingly - tight.

decadal planning workshop

- Jan 16
- “major strategic planning workshop designed to help shape the vision and future directions for SC (DOE/OS) during the next decade and beyond”
- Attendees
 - “leaders in the science and technology community, including those from academia, the National Labs, industry, the Administration, Congress, other agencies”
 - “media, science communicators, futurists (!) and other stakeholders”
 - Looks to RKS like folks from advisory committees + other “stakeholders”